

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

DHA-02 /069 W

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R 280820Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 676

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LILONGWE 0320

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, RH, MI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BANDA'S VIEWS ON FRONT LINE STATES DECISION

SUPPORT ONLY PATRIOTRIC FRONT IN RHODESIA

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT BANDA ASKED AMBASSADOR TO MEET WITH HIM ON FEBRUARY 23RD. PURPOSE WAS TO MAKE KNOWN TO USG HIS VIEW THAT FRONT LINE STATES WERE IN ERROR IN ENDORSING PATRIOTIC FRONT; THAT MAJORITY OF RHODESIANS RESENT THIS ACTION AND REGARD IT AS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. GOM WILL CONTINUE TREAT ALL RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADERS ON EQUAL BASIS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO TELEPHONE CALL FROM PRESIDENT'S OFFICE I DROVE TO BLANTYRE ON FEBRUARY 23 TO MEET WITH HIM AT SANJIKA PALACE. HE TOLD ME HE WANTED TO TALK TO ME ON TWO TOPICS; ONE OFFICIAL AND ONE PERSONAL. OFFICIALLY HE ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO THE USG HIS STRONG OPINION THAT FRONT LINE STATES WERE WRONG IN
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DESIGNATING PATRIOTIC FRONT AS CHOSEN INSTRUMENT FOR ACHIEVING MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA. HE SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY KAUNDA OR NYERERE "WHOM I KNOW VERY, VERY WELL INDEED," TO SUPPORT THEIR POSITION BECAUSE "THEY KNOW BETTER THAN THAT".

BANDA CONSIDERS FRONT LINE DECISION TO BE GROSS INTERFERENCE IN RHODESIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ASSERTED HE "KNOWS WITHOUT

A DOUBT" THAT GREAT MAJORITY OF RHODESIANS ARE OPPOSED TO AND RESENTFUL OF POSITION TAKEN BY FRONT LINE STATES. HE WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT UNTIL JUST RECENTLY SOME 150 YOUNG RHODESIANS WERE LIVING HERE WHO HAD FLED INTO MALAWI FROM BOTH ZAPU AND

ZANU CAMPS BECAUSE THEY WERE OPPOSED TO PATRIOTIC FRONT PHILOSOPHY AND FEARFUL FOR THEIR LIVES AS A RESULT. THESE YOUNG MEN WERE FED AND CARED FOR BY GOM AND HAVE FOR THE MOST PART NOW BEEN SENT IN VARIOUS GROUPS AT BANDA'S "PERSONAL EXPENSE" TO ZAIRE, GHANA, NIGERIA AND KENYA, WHERE HE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO PUT THEM IN SCHOOLS. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE OFTEN HAS SPOKEN WITH THE VARIOUS RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADERS AND HAS MADE IT A POINT ALWAYS TO TREAT THEM ON AN EQUAL BASIS.

3. I ASKED BANDA IF HE FELT SMITH'S "INTERNAL SOLUTION" OFFERED ANY PROSPECT OF SUCCESS. HE REPLIED TO THE EFFECT THAT IT MIGHT HAVE HAD A CHANCE HAD SMITH ATTEMPTED TO DEAL WITH POLITICAL LEADERS RATHER THAN WITH THE CHIEFS. "CHIEFS", HE SAID, "NO LONGER COUNT FOR ANYTHING IN OUR COUNTRIES. AS HERE IN MALAWI, THEY CAN BE MADE OR UNMADE AS THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE AND THEY NO LONGER HAVE POLITICAL WEIGHT." HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS WAS ALL HE WISHED TO SAY ON THIS POINT BUT I HAVE THE IMPRESSION HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT AN INTERNAL SOLUTION IF SMITH COULD BROADEN HIS CONTACTS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS IN RHODESIA TO INCLUDE RECOGNIZED POLITICIANS SUCH AS MUZOREWA, FOR EXAMPLE. I NOTE THAT TODAY'S GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED "DAILY TIMES" FEATURES THE STORY OF "SWEEPING REFORMS ANNOUNCED BY SMITH".

4. THE PERSONAL ITEM HE WISHED TO RAISE WITH ME IS HIS
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DESIRE TO INVITE TO NEXT JULY 6TH INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES, MRS. INEATIA R. GREER AND HER NIECE, MISS ELEANOR ROBERT OF 914 EAST RICHMOND, KOKOMO, INDIANA. HE TOLD ME MRS. GREER WAS THE DAUGHTER OF A COUPLE WHO WERE VERY GOOD TO HIM WHEN HE WAS A STUDENT AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY AND WITH WHOM HE LIVED DURING THE SUMMER VACATIONS. OVER THE YEARS HE HAS KEPT UP WITH THIS FAMILY, EXCHANGING CHRISTMAS GIFTS, ETC., AND AS A GESTURE OF APPRECIATION HE WANTS TO BRING THEM HERE FOR THE 6TH OF JULY AND ASKED THAT WE FACILITATE THE NECESSARY "PASSPORTS AND VISAS". I TOLD HIM I COULD SEE NO PROBLEM AT ALL IN THIS AREA.

5. UPON MY ARRIVAL FOR THE MEETING I PRESENTED BANDA A COPY OF "ROOTS" AND DESCRIBED THE SUCCESS IT HAS HAD AS A BOOK AND AS A DRAMATIZED SERIAL ON TELEVISION. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN REFERENCES TO THE BOOK AND WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE FOR A COPY WHICH HE WOULD READ WITH THE GREATEST OF INTEREST. AFTER MENTIONING THE ABOVE SUBJECTS, HE ASKED ME SOME GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS GETTING ALONG AND I STRESSED ITS INTEREST IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE

RECENT TRIP OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG. HE WAS CLEARLY INTERESTED BUT SOMEWHAT CAUTIOUS IN HIS REACTIONS, OBSERVING THAT AT LEAST IN THE PAST BLACK AMERICAN AMBASSADORS TO AFRICA HAVE NOT ALWAYS HAD A SPECIAL RAPPORT WITH AFRICANS, THAT IN HIS DAYS IN THE UNITED STATES THE NEGROES HAD VERY LITTLE INTEREST IN AFRICA AND THAT AFRICANS STUDYING THERE RESENTED THIS. I POINTED TO THE COPY OF "ROOTS" AND OBSERVED THAT THIS SITUATION HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED, AS ILLUSTRATED, FOR EXAMPLE, BY THE POPULARITY OF THIS BOOK. HE NODDED SOMEWHAT SCEPTICALLY. HE THEN BEGAN TO REMINISCE FONDLY ABOUT HIS YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE GENERALLY GOOD TREATMENT HE RECEIVED THERE. HIS OPPOSITION TO COMMUNISM, HE SAID, STEMS FROM THAT PERIOD AND HE WILL ALWAYS SUPPORT THE UNITED STATES IN THE IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT. WITH REGARD TO SLAVERY IN THE U.S., HE OBSERVED THAT MOST OF THE SLAVES THERE HAD COME FROM WEST AFRICA WHEREAS SLAVES FROM MALAWI WENT TO ZANZIBAR AND THE MOSLEM COUNTRIES. HE OBSERVED THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS HE HAS NO USE FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND THAT

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HE HAD ONCE TOLD THIS BLUNTLY TO PRESIDENT NASSER HIMSELF. HE WILL ALLOW NO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TO BE REPRESENTED IN MALAWI BECAUSE IN HIS VIEW COMMUNISM HAS NOT YET CHANGED ITS AIM OF WORLD DOMINATION THROUGH REVOLUTION AND HE WOULD THEREFORE NOT TRUST ANY COMMUNIST COUNTRY NOT TO MEDDLE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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ACTION AF-08

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AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LILONGWE 0320

6 FINDING BANDA IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD, I DECIDED TO MENTION OUR CONTINUED ANNOYANCE THAT THE PERSONNEL ACCREDITED TO THIS MISSION EXCEPT FOR AMBASSADOR ARE THOROUGHLY SEARCHED EVERY TIME THEY COME INTO THE COUNTRY, CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION. HE WAS A BIT TAKEN ABACK BUT DID NOT FLARE UP AND AFTER A BRIEF GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION HE AGREED HE WOULD ASK THE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENCY, JOHN NGWIRI, TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER. I WAS TEMPTED TO RAISE THE FUNSANI CASE BUT DECIDED IT MIGHT BE BEST TO WAIT AWHILE LONGER AND PRESS EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR AN ANSWER TO OUR AIDE MEMOIRE, WHICH I DID ON FEBRUARY 25.

7. COMMENT: AS HAS BEEN TRUE OF ALL OF MY PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH BANDA, HE WAS COURTEOUS, AFFABLE AND EAGER TO GIVE HIS VIEWS ON WORLD AFFAIRS AND HEAR ABOUT POLITICAL AND OTHER ASPECTS OF LIFE IN THE U.S. (E.G. OUR BAD WINTER). HAVING LIVED IN THE U.S. SOUTH IN THE 20'S AND 30'S HE IS CLEARLY IMPRESSED THAT A MAN FROM GEORGIA HAS BEEN ELECTED PRESIDENT AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF MOST OF THE BLACKS. IN HIS VIEW BANDA IS A TRUE FRIEND AND, IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MOST THINGS, AN ADMIRER OF THE U.S. IT IS UNFORTUNATE, TO SAY THE LEAST, THAT HIS EXPOSURE TO OUR BILL OF RIGHTS DID NOT INFLUENCE HIS CHARACTER SUFFICIENTLY TO ENABLE HIM TO WITHSTAND THE PRESSURES OF AFRICAN POLITICAL LIFE. ALSO IN HIS VIEW, HE IS STILL AN AFRICAN LEADER WITH PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE--SHOULD HE CHOOSE TO ASSERT HIMSELF ON ANY ISSUE. BUT AS WE HAVE NOTED BEFORE, HE IS NO LONGER PREPARED TO EXPOSE HIS POSITION OR PERSON AT ANY MEETINGSOR FORUM OUTSIDE MALAWI AND HIS SELF APPRAISAL ON THIS POINT IS PART OF THE DELUSION WHICH AFFECTS MOST ASPECTS OF HIS LIFE TODAY.

8. WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF INFO ADDRESSEES AFFECTED COULD CONFIRM ACCURACY HIS STATEMENT RE RHODESIAN YOUTHS BEING SENT AS STUDENTS TO THEIR COUNTRIES#
STEVENSON

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